

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-03 RSC-01 /018 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

APPROVED BY NEA/P:JEBRIGGS

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

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P 261912Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 060188

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL  
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING  
MARCH 26, 1974:

QUOTE: Q. TURKEY HAS BEGUN GROWING THE POPPY AGAIN, THE  
OPIUM POPPY. DOES THIS PRECLUDE IT, UNDER LEGISLATION OF  
CONGRESS, FROM OBTAINING U.S. AID? IS THIS A CURRENT  
QUESTION?

A. TURKEY HAS BEGUN GROWING POPPIES AGAIN -- THIS IS THE  
QUESTION -- IS THERE ANYTHING IN UNITED STATES FOREIGN  
ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION THAT PROHIBITS U.S. AID TO TURKEY  
IF IT CONTINUES TO DO SO?

AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, I DON'T KNOW SPECIFICALLY WHETHER  
THAT IS PART OF THE LAW. BUT IT SEEMS TO ME ALL WE'VE BEEN  
TOLD IS THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS DOING IS GROWING  
UN OF  
THE POPPY, WHICH WAS THE PROBLEM BEFORE, BUT THAT THE NEW  
GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION THIS OPTION,  
AND THAT THEY WILL BE GROWING SEEDS.

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Q. COULD YOU TAKE THE QUESTION AND EXPLORE FURTHER WHETHER THERE'S AN AID QUESTION?

A. YES. WELL, WHAT I WAS SUGGESTING IS WE MAY BE AT THE POINT WHERE WE CAN'T ANSWER THAT QUESTION BECAUSE, AS I SAY, WE HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO AUTHORIZE POPPY CULTIVATION OR RE-ESTABLISH IT.

Q . THE LAST WE WERE TOLD HERE, ABOUT A WEEK AGO, WAS THAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT ASSURED YOU THAT, IF THEY DECIDE, THEY WILL GIVE YOU ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. MY QUESTION IS, DID YOU GET ANYTHING FROM ANKARA THAT THEY HAVE DECIDED?

A. A BRIEF CHECK THIS MORNING, NO, WE HAVE NOTHING THAT WOULD INDICATE WE'VE BEEN NOTIFIED. END QUOTE. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** OPIUM, LAW, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 MAR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE060188  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** JEBRIGGS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740065-0281  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740314/aaaaamqz.tel  
**Line Count:** 76  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** shawdg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUL 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUL 2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <12 DEC 2002 by shawdg>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TU  
**To:** ANKARA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005